Spain to impose €2.4m fine on Google

The Spanish Data Protection Commissioner has announced that it plans to impose a fine of over €2.4 million on Google after initiating a criminal sanction procedure.

The Agencia Española de Protección de Datos (Data Protection Agency), believes that in collecting data for its Street View software, Google committed a total of five infringements against the Spanish Data Protection Act – two serious and three very serious.

The Commissioner found that the Street View service had not only collected information about Wi-Fi networks, but also the names and surnames of people using those networks, as well as usernames and passwords, which is a considerable violation of European data protection legislation.

Furthermore, Google has been accused of transferring the data to the US illegally.

For each infringement, Google could face a fine of between €60,101 and €300,506, and for the very serious infringements a fine of up to €601,012.

The agency is waiting for ongoing legal proceedings directed at Google in a Madrid court to conclude before it moves forward.

At the next stage of the procedure in Madrid, Google’s legal representative can provide evidence to demonstrate that it has not committed any infringement and answer the charges.

Canada’s Privacy Commissioner, Jennifer Stoddart, has also found Google to have violated thousands of Canadian citizens privacy in the collection of data for Street View in Canada.

The Commissioner has spoken of how Google stored data such as

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